

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5329
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1006

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR AF IR PK
SUBJ: VISIT OF AFGHAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER
WAHID ABDULLAH TO TEHRAN

REF: KABUL 254

1. SUMMARY: AFGHAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAHID ABDULLAH VISITED TEHRAN BRIEFLY JANUARY 29. HE MET WITH FONMIN KHALATBARI, PRIMIN HOVEYDA AND HAD PRIVATE SESSION WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR FOROUGHI. TOPICS COVERED INCLUDED ORIENTATION OF DAUD GOVERNMENT, PAKISTAN, RELATIONS WITH IRAN AND HELMAND WATERS AGREEMENT. VISIT CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL. END SUMMARY.

2. AFGHAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAHID ABDULLAH STOPPED OVER BRIEFLY IN TEHRAN JANUARY 29 EN ROUTE BACK TO AFGHANISTAN FROM TRIP TO EUROPE AND KUWAIT. DURING 24-HOUR VISIT ABDULLAH CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA, FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI, HAD TWO-HOUR PRIVATE SESSION WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR TO AFGHANISTAN MAHMOUD FOROUGHI AND MET WITH AFGHAN COMMUNITY FOR DINNER AT AFGHAN EMBASSY. NO COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED

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BUT LOCAL PRESS QUOTED BOTH SIDES AS SATISFIED WITH

OUTCOME OF TALKS INVOLVING FIRST RANKING AFGHAN OFFICIAL
TO VISIT IRAN SINCE DAUD CAME TO POWER LAST JULY.

3. FOROUGHI HAS PROVIDED FOLLOWING ON ABDULLAH'S VISIT
BASED ON THEIR LONG PRIVATE SESSION:

A. ORIENTATION OF DAUD GOVERNMENT: ABDULLAH TOLD FOROUGHI THAT DAUD AND NAIM WERE ONLY FORCE THAT KEPT AFGHANISTAN FROM FALLING UNDER COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. YOUNGER MILITARY LEADERS WHO CAME TO POWER WITH DAUD WERE SELF-CONFESSED COMMUNISTS AND IF THEY DID NOT HAVE TO RECKON WITH DAUD THEY WOULD LEAD COUNTRY TO COMMUNIST CAMP. AS FOR SOVIET ROLE IN COUP, SOVIETS DID NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE IN COUP, BUT, EQUALLY IMPORTANT, THEY DID NOT OPPOSE COUP AND ONCE IT HAD SUCCEEDED SOVIETS GAVE FULL SUPPORT TO NEW LEADERS.

B. PAKISTAN: FOROUGHI NOTED THAT ABDULLAH SEEMED OBSESSED WITH SUBJECT OF BHUTTO AND PAKISTAN AND DURING TWO-HOUR SESSION INDULGED REPEATEDLY IN ANTI-BHUTTO OUTBURSTS.

C. IRAN: FOROUGHI SAID ADIULLAH CAME AWAY FROM MEETING WITH HOVEYDA IMPRESSED BY PRIME MINISTER'S FRIENDLINESS AND GENUINE DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN. ABDULLAH SAID HE WAS TAKING BACK TO KABUL MESSAGE FROM HOVEYDA EMPHASIZING THAT IRAN HARBORED NOTHING BUT GOOD WILL TOWARDS AFGHANISTAN, HAD NO AGGRESSIVE DESIGNS ON COUNTRY AND WISHED TO HELP AFGHANISTAN IN ANY WAY IT COULD. TO THIS END ABDULLAH HAD BEEN GIVEN DRAFT OF PROPOSED AGREEMENT INVOLVING TRANSIT TRADE WHICH WOULD WAIVE CUSTOMS AND OTHER NORMAL FORMALITIES AND WOULD GIVE AFGHANISTAN TRANSIT RIGHTS BY TRAIN FROM MESHED EITHER TO JULFA ON SOVIET BORDER OR TO KHORRAMSHahr IN SOUTH, AND BY ROAD FROM AFGHAN BORDER TO BANDAR ABBAS. FOROUGHI SAID THAT TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT HAD BEEN CLEARED BY SHAH AND REPRESENTED DEFINITE OFFER WHICH COULD BE PUT INTO EFFECT WHENEVER AFGHANISTAN INITIALED IT.

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D. HELMAND WATERS: ABDULLAH TOLD FOROUGHI THAT EXCEPT FOR ONE OR TWO MINOR PROVISIONS INVOLVING UNIMPORTANT LANGUAGE CHANGES, DAUD WAS PREPARED TO SIGN HELMAND WATERS AGREEMENT. PROBLEM WAS ONE OF TIMING, IN ORDER FIND APPROPRIATE OCCASION WHEN POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN AFGHANISTAN WAS FAVORABLE. ABDULLAH EXPLAINED THAT SO MUCH HAD BEEN MADE OF BRIBERY CHARGES BEING A FACTOR IN SHAFIQ'S ROLE IN HELMAND WATERS

NEGOTIATIONS THAT DAUD WAS LEERY OF HAVING SAME ACCUSATIONS LEVELED AGAINST HIM IF HE WENT AHEAD WITH AGREEMENT AND GROUNDWORK FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT HAD TO BE CAREFULLY PREPARED.

4. MFA INFORMS US AFGHAN ECONOMIC MISSION IS EXPECTED SHORTLY, PRESUMEBLY TO DISCUSS GOI'S TRANSIT PROPOSALS.
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